

Historic Yorktown Design Committee

Minutes

August 18, 2004

East Room

York Hall

Yorktown, Virginia

Members Attending: Chuck Murray, Chairman
Jennifer Carver
Harvey Weinstein

Staff Attending: Mark Carter

Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the June 3, 2004 Organizational Meeting were approved unanimously.

Applications:

Application No. HYDC 1-04: Duke of York Corporation – Storage Shed

Mr. Carter gave a brief presentation on the applicant's request and reviewed the contents of his memorandum dated August 12, 2004. He noted that the storage shed was already in place and that the application had been filed after the County's notice of violation was issued to the applicant.

The applicant was not present.

Mr. Murray offered some introductory remarks and noted particularly that it was unfortunate that the first case being heard by the HYDC was an after-the-fact situation where the applicant was asking approval and forgiveness for something already done – in this case, the location of a storage shed prior to HYDC or Board of Supervisors approval. He said that it is important that Yorktown property owners observe the proper procedures. He then opened the floor for comments from those citizens in attendance.

Mrs. Beverly Krams, owner of the adjacent property located at 105 Church Street, reviewed the contents of her letter to the HYDC dated August 16, 2004 (copy attached). She expressed concern about the impact of the storage shed, both its location and appearance, on her property and the significant investment she is

making in its renovation. She stated her opinion that the barn-style structure is not appropriate architecturally and she urged the HYDC to set the benchmark high to ensure that structures in this area are compatible with the residences along Church Street and Grace Church. She recommended that the application be denied and the shed be required to be removed.

Mrs. Marsha Brown, 213 Nelson Street, expressed her concern about the appearance of the structure and recommended that the benchmark for approval be compatibility with the structures on Church Street, not compatibility with the adjacent laundry building.

Mr. James O'Hara, 706 Main Street, said the structure would not be an improvement for the area and recommended that the request be denied.

Mrs. Sarah O'Hara, 706 Main Street, said the structure would be a blight to this area of Yorktown and should not be approved merely to accommodate the convenience of the owner.

Mr. Murray then opened the floor for discussion by the HYDC. He noted that the comments and concerns expressed by the citizens at tonight's meeting were proof to him of the value of the Design Guidelines and the oversight/protection they can provide.

Mrs. Carver noted that the Guidelines specify that new construction in the Historic Core needs to be evaluated as to its impact on views and this structure does not seem consistent with that standard.

Mr. Weinstein noted his concern about the precedent that would be set by approving the application. He said he thought a better alternative would be for the applicant to consider a lean-to style addition to the laundry building (on its Ballard Street side) much like the existing lean-to storage are on the Ballard Street end of the motel building.

Mr. Murray agreed that the best location for any new structure would be on the west side (Ballard Street side) of the laundry building, putting it out of sight of Church Street and the Krams property.

Mrs. Krams expressed the opinion that even if the shed structure is removed, there should still be some landscaping along the motel's Church Street frontage to provide a barrier to pedestrian cut-through traffic.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Weinstein moved that the application be denied because it does not comply with the pertinent design guidelines and, no matter how its shape, trim or color is modified, it will still be incompatible in terms of its location and surroundings. Mrs. Carver seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Carter, Secretary.